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APPENDIX I

Lewiston Sun June 5, 1944

The odor from the Androscoggin was very noticeable early Sunday morning. Several British sailors on the streets after midnight were heard to comment on the strange aroma.

Lewiston Sun June 23, 1944

A Barkerville night-worker returning to his home early this morning reported to this office by phone that the odor from the river was very apparent in that neighborhood.

Lewiston Sun June 29, 1944

The Androscoggin River came up rapidly after last week's rain. As the river rose so did the smell, but not with the strength of past seasons when it made the region of the river unbearable.

Lewiston Sun July 24, 1944

Androscoggin Again Active. Fumes Drift Over Cities

After only feeble attempts to resume its reputation of former years, the Androscoggin River was back in form Sunday night. It was evident the water level was low as the river gave off its obnoxious odor. It was especially noticed in the downtown area.

The river, the source of many complaints and subject of several surveys and legislative action just prior to the entry of this country into the war, gave every indication what little had been done to date to alleviate the condition responsible was far from enough.

On at least two other occasions this year the fumes have caused some discoloration of houses located in the immediate vicinity of the river, and with the strong fumes of last night much more discoloration is expected.

The legislature, acting upon a bill introduced by Edmond J. Lambert, started a clean-up of the river, but little had been accomplished up to the time of the outbreak of the war.

Lewiston Journal July 29, 1944

The Androscoggin River gave off its obnoxious fumes in real earnest for the first time this year.

Androscoggin Not Only "Open Sewer"

That the Androscoggin River is not the only major river along the eastern seaboard in need of cleaning up was evident in a story which appeared in Friday's issue of the Boston Globe concerning the Merrimac.

According to the story by Edwin F. Collins: "Perhaps half a million people live in Massachusetts cities and towns and villages bordering on this Ol' Man River's course and those who profit by the Merrimac's might proudly like to think of it as the wide world's greatest textile stream. But its critics speak with embarrassing frankness of its lower stretches as 'an open sewer'--and for 20 years groups of them have ceaselessly agitated in attempts to arouse the industrial communities to take remedial steps as a unit, or else appeal to the Federal Government to do so on the grand paternalistic scale of a WPA project.

"These critics clamor for stoppage somehow of industry's slow poisoning of the Merrimac's waters which may finally take its toll on the general community's health, and for restoration of some measure of the earlier wholesome recreational privileges which really are the natural heritage of all the people. Old Father Time will know a generation hence the answer to their cry".

Apparently there is only one difference between the Merrimac and the Androscoggin River here. The City of Lawrence, Mass., takes its drinking water supply from the Merrimac River with 2,400,000,000 gallons going through the plant annually for purification for consumption. The water is treated first with aluminum sulphate, then passed through sand beds, and finally through aeration plants and given a final chlorine bath "which renders it 99.9985 percent pure--a quite angelic quality in contrast to the waters of some other American cities.

Collins' reference to "an open sewer" would strike home to the Androscoggin River during the Summer months.

Apparently much the same condition exists along each river. Both run through industrial towns and cities.--the Androscoggin flows through pulp and paper mills as well as textile cities, the Merrimac's course is for the most part through textile centers.

The Androscoggin River was doing its best, last evening, to surpass the evil smells produced in past years. The odor was readily recognized by residents who were hopeful it wouldn't get too bad this Summer. Nothing effective has been done to alleviate the nuisance.

Lewiston Journal August 1, 1944

"Gosh! the river's stinking this morning," exclaimed the hatless, shirtless driver, as they came across North Bridge this morning.

"Huh," grunted his companion, "if you were down to the seashore and got that smell you'd tell how - - -"

"Health it was," interrupted the other.

"Yeah; it smells just like the clam flats," went on the companion.

"Right," completed the other.

And there you are.

Lewiston Sun August 2, 1944

The old Androscoggin was in rare form last night, sending its obnoxious fumes over the two cities.

Lewiston Sun August 7, 1944

The Androscoggin River was in usual form Sunday. The smell was reported floating in and out of local theaters and restaurants.

Lewiston Journal August 8, 1944

The next time you cross North Bridge, from Auburn to Lewiston, stop, smell the Androscoggin sulphite perfume, then turn around and look back at the view which is Main Street skyline. Then rush to the library and get a copy of Elizabeth Foster's Dirigo Point and read that lady's description of the fragrance of lilacs and the view of the mountains, and the vegetable gardens besides the gardens. Then pinch yourself again and wonder if you and the author's hero could possibly be crossing the same bridge. You'll also enjoy the dialect attributed to a colored porter at the Portland railroad station. Porter, no kidding, and what's more, a porter who knew everyone who took the Fa'mington train. Vass you dere, Sharlie? Also nice is the exotic beautiful town of Gray described in the story.

August 12, 1944 Lewiston Journal

River Stench Noticed Near Barkerville

Our river smell is with us again.

The Androscoggin, pretty well behaved last year, and not too bad so far this season, is giving out its sulphite odors again, and it is feared the situation will get much worse if the warm spell continues. (con't)

River Stench Noticed Near Barkerville (con't)

Barkerville, particularly, has noticed the sulphite odors the past few warm evenings, and residents of that section are complaining.

It had been hoped that measures taken upon orders of Governor Sumner Sewall, and Attorney General Frank I. Cowan, would clear up the situation, and much progress has been made in efforts to hold up the sulphite wastes that cause the smell, but apparently all is not under control as yet.

Lewiston Journal August 14, 1944

River Stench Will Grow Worse Cold, Heavy Rain Needed To Kill Odor

Augusta -- The Androscoggin River smell condition is as good as it will be until the war situation allows the release of machinery needed to change manufacturing methods at the pulp mills which dump the major part of the pollution into the river. That was indicated by a report to Governor Sumner Sewall today by Attorney General Frank I. Cowan.

The report warned the governor that the people of Lewiston and Auburn will suffer from much worse conditions before the end of the Summer unless there are cold, heavy rains. This is in spite of the fact that the mills are living up to their agreement on the curtailment of deposits into the river.

The Attorney-General's report stated that the river smells may reach the stench of the 1941 season soon.

The worst part of the matter is that nothing can be done about it. The mills are operating on war work and must continue on the full schedule, it was explained at the Governor's office.

Attorney-General Cowan's report to the governor said in part: "On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week (August 8 and 9) I made a personal inspection of the Androscoggin River, from Brunswick, to a point above Berlin, N. H., accompanied by John Marshall, assistant Attorney General and Mr. E. Sherman Chase of the firm of Metcalf and Eddie.

"I fear the people of Lewiston and Auburn are going to suffer considerable inconvenience very shortly unless we get heavy, cold rains. The present Summer, in spite of high water, has been such because of the great heat, or is likely to develop a condition of the river, equal to the worst of any previous year."

"At Gulf Island Dam we found acres of floating sludge, thrown to the surface by erupting gasses.

"At Turner Center Bridge, we found the same enormous masses of sludge and saw the river boiling with rising gasses like a devil's brew. Huge bubbles, each one bringing to the surface a brownish, ruddy mass of fetid sediment, were breaking so rapidly that we could not keep up with them. (con't)

River Stench Will Grow Worse (con't)

"All along the river for many miles, we saw the same floating islands of sludge.

"At Virginia Bridge, about a mile above the mill at Rumford, we found the same condition, huge masses of sluds, some several feet in diameter, and a foot or more thick.

"The mills have in accordance with the stipulation approved by the court, greatly reduced their production of sulphite pulp, but that reduction is not sufficient to cure the evil. The lagoon at Rumford, I learned only about a week ago, has not been operated this year. The mill people say they couldn't locate the leak in it."

The governor's office held out the possibility that early Fall rains might help the situation. It was made clear, however, that a real remedial action in the form of permanent benefits to the Androscoggin River valley would have to wait until war needs have been met and machinery can be released to the mill so that they can change to other methods of manufacturing pulp, thereby eliminating the dumping of sulfite liquor in the river.

Lewiston Sun August 14, 1944

Just at a time when wide-open windows were a necessity, the Androscoggin was at its worst, last night. State investigations may have progressed but the progress doesn't appear to have been toward eliminating the nuisance. The smell, admittedly caused by mill waste, seemed more powerful than ever.

Lewiston Journal August 19, 1944

The Androscoggin River smell condition is as good as it will be until the war situation allows the release of machinery needed to change manufacturing methods at the pulp mills which dump the major part of the pollution into the river, according to a report made to Governor Sumner Sewall by Attorney General Frank I. Cowan.

Lewiston Journal August 23, 1944

Old Man River paid a visit to the Lewiston City Building during the night Tuesday, much to the discomfort of the long-suffering members of the night crew of the Lewiston Police Department. Wednesday, the fact that Old Man River had been around could be detected easily. There's nothing like the Androscoggin River!

Hildreth Favors Continuing Work on River Pollution

Hildreth Inspects River--(picture) Horace A. Hildreth, president of the Maine Senate and Republican nominee for Governor, was "treated" to a first hand whiff of the Androscoggin river in a visit to the Gulf Island dam Thursday. He gave assurance that he favors continuation of work to end river pollution and its resultant stench nuisance, as Assistant Operator Win Davis showed him an island of sludge at the foot of the dam.

Conditions on the Androscoggin River which cause a nauseating stench to permeate Lewiston and Auburn were termed "the most flagrant example of pollution I ever saw" Thursday by Horace A. Hildreth, president of the Maine Senate and Republican nominee for Governor, after he had visited Gulf Island Dam to see first hand the sludge-saturated waters.

At the time of Hildreth's visit to the dam, there was a stiff breeze blowing. Yet, the pollution thickened waters showed not a ripple. Winfield Davis, an operator at the plant, explained that sludge in the water rendered it so heavy that there were no waves.

The gubernatorial nominee inspected an island of the gas-emitting, sponge-like sludge, commented on the awful stench which it released, then gave assurance that he favors continuing anti-pollution work throughout the State, and especially in the Androscoggin Valley.

"River Teaches Lesson"

"The Androscoggin River teaches us a great lesson," Hildreth declared after his visit, his first personal experience with the aromatic waters which flow through the Twin Cities. "In developing our future industries, we must look 100 years ahead, instead of one generation. We must realize and take into consideration the problems which industry can bring, as well as the benefits.

"Quick benefits often bring long time injury," he warned.

"I certainly believe the pollution problem, especially on the Androscoggin, is one we must constantly work at. It is far more important to preserve our natural resources than try to be up to the minute on all kinds of developments," Hildreth said.

He added that Maine must "steadily work at the problem of river pollution throughout the State. The Androscoggin River is the most acute, from a nuisance point of view."

"Naturally," the candidate pointed out, "we can't smack industry out of business, but we must keep after it" in the anti-pollution program.

Lewiston Sun September 2, 1944

Conditions on the Androscoggin River which cause a nauseating stench to permeate Lewiston and Auburn were termed "the most flagrant example of pollution I ever saw" by Horace A. Hildreth, Republican nominee for Governor.

Lewiston Journal September 2, 1944

Sweet Aroma Valley, Me.,--The Androscoggin stench was at a new height for the season, today, Saturday, with prospects of the record being broken by nightfall. Anybody that can leave town for the holiday weekend will do so, in self defense.

Lewiston Journal September 7, 1944

Jullien Convinced Washington Would Act to Clean Up River

Stopping here last night en route to Waterville during a political tour, Paul J. Jullien, Democratic candidate for Governor, expressed concern for Androscoggin Valley citizens because of the stench of the Androscoggin river.

"I thought I had read about a great deal being done about the river," Jullien remarked. "From the looks--or the smell of the situation, I should judge that the Republicans have fumbled the ball again."

Jullien said that he could very well understand that to Androscoggin valley residents, cleaning up the river should be "The No. 1 post war project," but he said he thought the matter had been attacked from the wrong angle. "This is an interstate, and therefore Federal problem, and not entirely a Maine venture," he said.

"I don't see why something hasn't been done before, to convince Washington to clean up this river that flows through two States."

The Democratic candidate said he was positive Washington interest in the river stench could be aroused, and action could be obtained.

"I remember," he said, "that a local citizens' committee intended to bring the question to Washington attention, but if I remember right, the State Republican administration took over the problem. That was all very well, but not the way to go at it at all," Jullien added. "I am sure Federal funds are available to clean up this foul smelling river once and for all."

Cowan Says River Will Be Cleaned Up in Way
Unharmful to Prosperity of People

Pollution in the Androscoggin River will be cleaned up, Frank I. Cowan, State attorney general, said today, not in the quick way promised by New Dealers, which would be disastrous to the entire valley, but in a slower, but more practical way, which will not harm the prosperity of the people.

Cowan's statement, answering comment of Paul J. Jullien, Democratic candidate for Governor, was as follows:

"I read with considerable interest Mr. Paul Jullien's comment on the Androscoggin River, as quoted in the Lewiston Journal for September 7. I wasn't surprised at all, as his words were those of a typical New Dealer. Two years ago I went to Washington with Governor Sewall to find out what assistance could be obtained there. We wanted a few pounds of steel and a few feet of metal piping to be used in drawing off the sulphite liquor into a lagoon.

"Washington was very willing to help get rid of the odor. We were told by the head of the pulp and paper division of the WFB that the mills in the Androscoggin Valley were rated as of no value in the war effort and that if we would say the word they would shut them down, thus effectively getting rid of the pollution. I told them that that was a coward's way of doing it--that the industries were very important to the people of the valley, many of whom earned their livings there. The New Deal reply to this was that there was a labor shortage in the shipyards--that the government would move 5,000 families to South Portland. I said that many of these people were splendid citizens of French ancestry--hardworking, thrifty and honest, who had acquired comfortable homes which were, in most cases, free from debt, and that I wouldn't for an instance think of moving them into the filthy slums that were being developed at the shipyards.

"That was the New Deal method which Mr. Jullien advocates. They would willingly destroy great industries, valuable to the people of the Androscoggin Valley, just to get results.

"An industry, to them means nothing, but I think I know the people of that valley better than Mr. Jullien and his communistic-minded friends do.

"I was astonished to read that anyone would stoop to inject politics into the Androscoggin river case. We who have been doing the work never have done so.

"What astonished me more is the fact that the New Dealers believe that those hard-headed Frenchmen of Maine after giving the lives of their sons to smash Fascism in Europe will vote to perpetuate in power in this country any man, no matter how good they may believe him to be personally.

"The fact that the New Dealers would suggest the easy and immediate method of getting rid of a nuisance, like a lazy housewife sweeping dust under the rug, is not surprising. (con't)

Cowan Says River Will Be Cleaned Up (con't)

"But I have more faith than that in these neighbors of mine. They know their homes are safe so long as their industries are safe. They want that river cleaned up as quickly as possible but they have assured me, time and again, that they would rather have the nuisance removed slowly, and keep their mills, than adopt the New Deal plan of destroying the mills in order to stop the nuisance quickly.

"A short time ago I sent a message to the people of the valley. I told them the river will be bad this Summer. I told them of a judgment in court against the paper mills and that all that is necessary is for the judge to sign a decree and the nuisance can be stopped at once. But I reminded the people of the valley that paper is a NUMBER ONE war essential today and that these mills are hastening the day when their boys and mine will come back home. I further promised that the day Germany surrenders I will demand immediate action to stop that nuisance--not by closing the mills which the people of the valley will need, but by helping the mills to change their system of manufacturing so that the polluting agent will no longer be poured into the river.

"And the people of the valley expressed their faith in me and told me to proceed in my own way! So I say I know those people better than does Mr. Jullien."

Lewiston Journal September 9, 1944

Jullien Wonders How Long River Valley Must Wait Before Stench Eliminated

Attorney General Cowan's answer to Paul Jullien's criticism of the Republican administration handling of the Androscoggin river stench problem brought out another statement by Jullien, today. Here for the Democratic rally, Jullien asked "How long, oh, Lord, how long must the Androscoggin people wait and suffer while someone in Augusta or Portland theorizes and devises ways and means to suit their own convenience?"

"I want you Lewistonians to know," Jullien said, "that my purpose in taking interest in the river is not political. I shall be back after the election, regardless of the outcome, and see if I can be of any assistance to you."

Jullien said he visited Lewiston often, and first noted the river smell when he came here as Legion commander, to visit the Lewiston post. "That was quite a few years ago, and the Republicans were talking about the river then. Haven't they had enough time to effect their cure of the ills of the Androscoggin?" Jullien asked. "It's about time to try somebody else's way. Some other policy might prove more effective."

Sulphite or Sulphate It's Still The Same Old River Headache

Poland Spring--Androscoggin citizens, who have suffered for years the terrible stench of the sulphide gas arising from the river, the result of the dumping of sulphite wastes by the pulp and paper mills in Berlin, Rumford, and Livermore Falls, will be interested in a debate going on among pulp and paper men, on the relative merit of the different processes through which paper is manufactured.

There always have been "sulphite men" and "sulphate man," in the industry, but neither group ever attempted to convert the other, as is being done now.

The sulphite process, generally used in this section, of the country, is an "acid" process, requiring the uses of certain types of lumber, and resulting in the dumping of a great deal of waste acids into the rivers. These acids bring about the stream pollution with which Androscoggin is so familiar.

The sulphite "school of thought" in the industry believes these wastes can be recovered, reprocessed for further use, or turned into by-products.

Sulphate men, however, say that the sulphite recovery process is too expensive to be worth while, economically, in peace time; that sulphate chemicals can be used over and over again at a low cost of processing; that sulphate mills can utilize a wide variety of lumber.

Two Processes Discussed

These were matters under discussion, today, as members of two pulp associations met. These were the Northeastern Division of the American Pulp & Paper Mill Superintendents' Association, and the Maine-New Hampshire branch of TAPPI, the association of technological experts of the pulp-paper industry.

Berlin's big Brown Company, the No. 1 mill on the Androscoggin, is familiar with both processes, using the sulphite method in Berlin, and sulphate in a mill at La Tuque, Que. Some time ago in its annual report for 1943-1944, the Brown Co. announced plans to build a new mill (sulphate) at Berlin.

Pulp and paper engineers say that mere "changing over" from sulphite to sulphate just isn't done. You might as well build a new mill. The processes are so different that few operations other than the drying of the pulp can be done the same in sulphite and sulphate mills.

Sulphite mills now turning out by-products on a large scale include one at Marathon, Wis., and another in Ontario, where vanilla is being manufactured in huge quantities.

Interested in this debate are many TAPPI engineers here for the convention. Today, they took up technological problems of the industry, at a round table session over which T. M. Barry, Madawaska, presided. He is chairman of the Maine-New Hampshire division of TAPPI. Vice Chairman, Clifford Patch, of the Eastern Corp., Bangor, also directed some of the discussions.

Our River Behaved But Bricker Heard About It

Bangor--People of Lewiston-Auburn and the Androscoggin valley have a friend in Gov. John W. Bricker, Republican candidate for vice president in that he believes the river's smell should be cleaned up. He said so here last night at a press conference after his arrival here.

It all started when one of the Maine newspapermen asked him how he was enjoying his trip to Maine. He said it has been immense. Especially had he enjoyed the wonderful lakes and streams which the train had skirted and crossed on its way across the State. Then he said:

"But they told me that beautiful river we crossed as we came to that first stop, Lewiston, was badly polluted; that it had a bad smell. What a shame. Something should be done about it.

"What causes it?" he asked.

Told that it was a combination of industrial waste from the big pulp and paper mills on the river Lewiston, combined with sewage from several big industrial towns, the Governor asked:

"Are they doing anything about it?"

"They have been working on the problem for the past three or four years," he was told.

"It should be corrected. It is a shame to have such a wonderful river as that polluted in that way."

"Would you favor doing it by the Federal government", asked one of those present.

"If it can't be done in any other way, yes," said the Governor, and then he went on to elaborate that thought. He made it very clear that he did not mean by that that it should be exclusively the task of the Federal government.

Ohio he explained, had had a great deal of river pollution in years past and still had some, but they were working it out. He cited the way in which the problem of this nature on the Chicago river had been met and handled and said that they had some problems to solve.

Where it was possible to make use of the compact plan for meeting the situation, he felt it was most desirable to do so. This, of course, was a reference to what has been suggested in the course of the consideration of the Androscoggin problem of having Maine and New Hampshire form such a compact, or authority, as it is sometimes called, and working together in abating the nuisance.

While the Vice Presidential candidate did not refer to it, this is the same idea which has been met in a number of instances where a problem involved two or more States and by such an authority worked together under federal approval. One of the notable instances of this kind is the Port of New York Authority, which the cities of New York and Jersey City developed the port facilities of that great section.

Another instance here at home is the case of the Kittery bridge which was constructed under the provisions of such an authority.

(con't)

Our River Behaved But Bricker Heard About It (con't)

Too Beautiful A Stream

But the main point was that Gov. Bricker was disturbed to find a great river such as the Androscoggin had become polluted and he wanted to see it cleaned up and made the clear, sweet smelling waterway it ought to be, even if it became necessary to use federal money with which to do the job.

From the rear platform of his car the Governor got a fine view of the river as he came into Lewiston yesterday afternoon, saw the dam and the falls and the big mills along its shores below. He was impressed with it and expressed the feeling that it must be a very beautiful stream as one went up its length to the source.

But he made another point very clear.

Protect Industry

In any clearing up which was done the right of industry must not be overlooked. Industry was essential. It had to be protected, but he could see no reason why the desired objective could not be accomplished without harm to the industries.

As might be expected these observations regarding federal money for the purification of streams led to the question of what he thought of President Roosevelt's announcement that he favored a TVA plan for the Missouri river. Gov. Bricker said that he was very much opposed to the federal government spending money for any of these developments where they could be done by private enterprise.

It was only when it was great necessity that such developments be made and the conditions were such that private capital could not do it, that he thought there could be a reason for public funds to be so used.

The great danger, as he saw it, of promiscuous developments of this nature by the federal government that it would kill off private enterprise. It would do away with an opportunity for the investment of private capital and that would be a calamity and was a serious menace.--Sam E. Conner.